

THE BULLETIN:

BY EDWARD H. BRITTON

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THE WEEKLY BULLETIN will be published every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning, and will be sent to subscribers by mail.

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BRILLIANT NAVAL VICTORY

ACCOUNTS FROM EYE WITNESSES

BRILLIANT SUCCESS!

From the Charleston Courier.

The countenances of the dwellers in our ancient city have not beamed with so bright a light as they did on Saturday morning, since the joyful news was passed from mouth to mouth that Major Anderson had struck his flag, and Fort Sumter had yielded to Gen. Beauregard.

From the moment the news was passed, the city was in a state of jubilation. The bells rang, the cannons fired, and the people celebrated the victory with great enthusiasm.

The cheering and shouting were heard from every corner of the city. The streets were filled with people who were celebrating the victory with great enthusiasm.

The joy was universal. The people of Charleston were proud of their victory and the brave men who had fought for them.

The news was passed from mouth to mouth, and the city was in a state of jubilation. The bells rang, the cannons fired, and the people celebrated the victory with great enthusiasm.

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and was hailed by the watch on deck, when the following colloquy took place:

"What a beautiful sight! Drop your anchor, back—back—and be careful, or you will sink!"

"That is the Confederacy at anchor!"

"As the answer was given, the *Palmetto State*, with full steam up, ran into the *Mercedita*, the bow striking her right about midships and making an entrance of about three feet. At the same time our bow gun was fired with a seven inch incendiary shell.

We immediately backed out, when the *Mercedita* hauled down her flag. They were ordered to send a boat to us, and Lieut. T. Abbot, Commanding, came in with a boat's crew and surrendered to us.

The *Mercedita*, carrying 7 guns and 150 men. He stated that his vessel was in a sinking condition, and begged our officers to relieve them. A shot had pierced her boiler, which had burst and scattered a large number of men. Lieutenant Abbot begged and begged, but we could not take the men with him on board the *Palmetto State*, as it was too late to come to us, they had neglected to put in the plug, and their small boat was only kept afloat by the strenuous efforts of the men bailing the boat. He also stated that the water in the *Mercedita* had, at the time of his leaving, already risen as high as the engine doors.

Commodore Ingraham regretted that he could not comply with the request as he had no room to accommodate them aboard his vessel, and no small boat, or any other means of affording them relief. Lieut. Abbot then pledged his word of honor for the officers and crew of the *Mercedita* to serve in any manner against the Confederacy, and they were accordingly exchanged, upon which condition he was sent to board his own vessel. The *Mercedita* was then completely by surprise. They were rescued from their slaughter by the shock, the men not having time to draw themselves, Lieut. Abbot and the men with him were nearly suffocated by clothing.

The *Palmetto State*, leaving the *Mercedita* to her fate, stood out to sea, and engaged several other vessels of the Abolition blockade, which were also exchanging shots. The latter, however, fled at our approach, and at long distances and leaving us in a hurry. One of our vessels was exchanged with the United States frigate *Pennsylvania*. The latter, however, followed the example of her companions, and fled. We then stood Northward, towards the *Chicago*, which at this time was almost surrounded by the enemy's vessels. At 8 A. M. there being no more of the Abolition fleet in sight, we stood back to the entrance of Beach Canal, having signalled the *Chicago* to return. On passing we were saluted by Fort Moultrie, Sumter and Ripley, and arrived at the wharf in the city a little before 6 P. M.

THE MOVEMENTS OF THE CHICAGO.

The *Chicago*, Captain John P. Tucker, started from her wharf at half past eleven P. M. and crossed the bar at 4.30 A. M. We commenced action at 5.05. The *Palmetto State* engaged an Abolition vessel on the right, while we engaged the one on the left. As we passed the blockade on the right, the *Palmetto State* was laying alongside of her. Keeping on our course, we proceeded to within fifty yards of the vessel on the left, and then gave her a shot from our bow gun, the blockade at the time being under full headway. We rounded to and gave her the full benefit of our broadside guns and after gun. She immediately rang her bell for fire and made signals of distress to the rest of the fleet. The last gun of her signal officer Saunders, she was sterned down very low in the water, and disappeared very suddenly. This vessel is supposed to have gone down. Notwithstanding the *Chicago* immediately steamed towards her, nothing could be discovered of the vessel.

The *Chicago*, proceeding farther out to sea, stood Northward and Eastward, and two vessels apparently coming to the relief of the missing steamer. We engaged them. One of them, after firing a few guns, withdrew. Standing to the Northward, about daylight, we steamed up to small island, where we missed steamer and endeavored to come to close quarters. She kept clear of us, driving away as rapidly as possible, but however without receiving our compliments and carrying with her four or five of our shots. Shortly afterwards the steamship *Quaker City* and another side wheel steamer came gallantly bearing down upon the *Chicago* and commenced firing at long range. Neither would permit our boat to get within a respectable distance. Two of our shots struck the *Quaker City*, and she left perfectly satisfied in a crippled condition. Another side wheel steamer, named *Walden*, was coming down towards the *Chicago*, coming down on our stern. Captain Tucker perceiving this, we rounded to and proceeded until within about five hundred yards, when the belligerent steamer also rounded to and gave us both broadsides and a shot from her pivot gun. We fired our forward pivot gun with incendiary shell, and struck her just forward of her wheel house, setting her on fire, disabling and stopping her port wheel. This vessel was fired both fore and aft, and volumes of smoke observed to issue from every aperture. As we neared her, she hauled down her flag and made a signal of surrender, but still kept under way, with her starboard wheel, and changing her direction. This was not after daylight. We succeeded in catching this vessel, but having surrendered, and the Captain supposing her boilers struck and the escaping steam preventing the engine from going into the engine room to stop her, ordered us not to fire. She then made her escape. After this vessel had got out of our reach, the perfectly disabled steamer of three masts, she fired her last rifle gun, again hoisted her flag and setting all sails, fled before her pursuers. The *Chicago* was engaged six times more of the Abolition fleet. Discovering that the *Palmetto State*, which was engaged firing and making her escape, orders were given to follow her. On our return, we again came across a three masted bark rigged vessel, which we engaged, firing our guns as we passed, striking her once or twice. We then kept on our course to the bar, having sustained no damage. The last ship mentioned above kept her flag at sea until we got out of range, and we give them our return compliments. One of the blockade vessels was certainly sunk. We engaged her at the distance of only one hundred yards, and she sailed down with her stern clear under water.

The *Chicago* anchored in Beach Channel at 3.20 A. M., and arrived at her wharf in the city about a clock, receiving a salute from all the forts and batteries as she passed on her return. The number of shots fired by the *Chicago* during the whole engagement was twenty-seven, mostly incendiary shells. One of these shells, fired by the forward pivot gun, struck the shipboard pivot gun, and disabled it. The shipboard pivot gun, Master Mason, the forward broadside, Master Payson, the starboard broadside.

The different divisions were commanded by First Lieutenant G. H. B. and Second Lieutenant J. C. Gray, assisted by Midshipman R. B. and Signal Officer Saunders. The loss of the *Chicago* were Messrs. J. C. and J. C. and J. C.

On following official dispatch, brought by the steamer *Chicago*, was received in the city about 11 P. M. on Saturday.

General Palmer to the *Chicago*, Jan. 21. I went out last night. This vessel ran into and struck the United States steamer *Mercedita*, which she sent to the bottom with a boat's crew to the *Palmetto State* and surrendered. The Officers and crew were paroled. Captain Tucker thinks the ship was a vessel, and set her on fire, when she struck her. The blockade firing had gone to the outward and starward of sight. (Signed) D. A. NICHOLAS, Flag Officer, Beach Palmetto State.

THE GUNBOAT ISACONITE.

The *Isaconite*, which was captured in Stono River, our troops on Friday afternoon, is an iron screw steamer of 450 tons, and carried eight eight-inch guns, and six or six and a half pounders and one seven inch thirty pounder. She was commanded at the time by Capt. F. S. Conover. Her crew consisted of eleven officers and one hundred and five men, of whom eight were killed and fifteen wounded. She was towed up on Saturday morning by the steamer *Shaner* to a place of safety under the guns of Fort Moultrie, and will probably be brought to the city to-day for repairs. The *Isaconite* was brought on the steamer *Sumter*, on Sunday morning, to the city, and now lies on Southern wharf.

The steamer's upper works are badly damaged by our shot, and the masts pierced with bullets. Her sides also give evidence of the accuracy of our shot. She will be repaired immediately and made ready for sea. Ninety-three prisoners, including three negroes, arrived in the city on Saturday morning, under escort of a detachment of the Charleston Battalion. They were taken to Gen. Pickens's Headquarters, and ordered to the Provost Marshal's Office, Col. Gilliam, who registered their names and turned them over to the care of Mr. Milligan, at the Charleston jail.

From one of the prisoners, who appears to be a very intelligent person, we gather the following account:

"Early Friday morning we were practicing at a target on Cole's Island. In the afternoon started up Stono River and dropped anchor a little above Grimbald's plantation. We were preparing supper, and the mess were picked up when a battery immediately above us on James Island, opened fire. The first shot struck our entered the stern of the vessel, demolishing our crockery, kettles, &c., killing three men, besides wounding others. This shot apparently came from a clump of trees. We immediately got up anchor, and the men beat to quarters. Our guns were fixed in the direction of the battery from where the shot came, when another cross firing was opened on the boat from a battery fixed upon the shore, as it was at Legare's place on John's Island. We ran down as far as the turning of the river, where some wooden spires were driven in; another battery now opened on us, raking the vessel fore and aft and amidships. The boat had gone a little further when a shot struck the steam condenser and crippling the machinery, put a stop to our further progress. We then struck our flag and surrendered the boat. After the surrender, the gunboat *Commodore McDonough*, steamed up to the assistance of the *Isaconite*, which was disabled, and commenced firing on the prisoners, who were landing the Smith's Knegs and Pennant at the time having been turned. The *Isaconite* has been in service in Stono River about four months."

The important expedition, which resulted so gloriously was planned by General Ripley, and carried out nobly and successfully by the officers and men composing it.

LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

Acting Assistant Engineer James S. Turner was badly wounded in the leg and breast, and Acting Assistant Paymaster F. C. Hill was slightly in the head. These were the only officers injured.

Killed—William F. Greer, Boatwain's Mate; Richard Water, Coxswain; William S. Dickey, James Lewis, Wm. R. Lewis, Tumbler, John Peters; Jos. May, negro.

Wounded—R. Stout, arm taken off; O. H. Brown, Wm. Johnson, John Dalton, Turner, F. C. Hill, Samuel Hoffman, John Nicholas, A. McKel, John Rivers, L. Leober, J. Marques, T. W. Dunham.

WANT NURSE.

A healthy white woman without a child preferred. Liberal wages will be given, and expenses paid if from a distance. Will hire by the month or for the year. Inquire at the Bulletin office.

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 4, 1863.

Columbia Carolina copy 3 times and send bill to this office for payment.

NEEDS FOR HIRE.

Two Negro Women will be hired out for the year at auction on next Saturday at 10 o'clock, at the public square.

E. A. THOMPSON.

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